

## Life at Ground Zero, NYC



*Bill Jones*

Bill Jones, primary driver for vanpool HOV 7525, has been a firefighter at SeaTac for 21 years. Recently, he volunteered with 3 other Seatac firefighters to go to New York City to help in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack.

Bill said New York lost 343 fire fighters. Entire crews are totally gone and have not been found. He said firefighters are a

very close community and it was frustrating for them to have lost so many people and then not be able to recover them. New Yorkers' response to their loss has been overwhelming. In front of one firehouse, people placed flowers and made contributions for the families of lost firefighters.

New York firefighters were very happy to see the firefighters from Seattle offer their assistance and moral support. Bill worked in Brooklyn at Firehouse #250, which lost two of their firefighters. Bill went out on the usual firestation calls assisting with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and structural fires. He observed that buildings in Brooklyn are much older compared to buildings in this area contributing to a higher incidence of fires.

Firefighters treated them as guests and took good care of them, including providing all their meals. Each firehouse has its own cook and fire crews live like a family.

During the one day he worked at ground zero, ironworkers were busy cutting up steel beams while cranes lifted them away. Bill helped there as needed.

Bill describes the loss of 6,000 lives as phenomenal. He added that he could

not put into words the amount of destruction he witnessed which pictures on the news can't begin to show. The extent of the damage, including destruction of the surrounding blocks, was surreal and unbelievable.

Bill commented on the fact that clean up crews are so busy, they have not had time for the full impact of what happened to catch up with them yet.

Bill is now back in Seattle and commuting to work in his vanpool, which he describes as "absolutely great." Unlike most vanpool commuters, all 8 firemen carry their personal belongings for their 3 day 24 hour shift and live together for the 3 days at work like a family. Bill said conflicts they heard about in Vanpool Orientation Class that can happen between vanpool riders do not happen in their van. He can't imagine their group complaining about seating, music or personalities. The vanpool works very well for them.

### *Inside this issue:*

- Over 2,000 New Ridematch Applicants
- Need Riders? Call your VanPool Services Representative
- Bike Lockers at Park & Ride Lots
- Prorating Fares for December



### Flags on Vans

The King County Executive has provided small American flag decals to be applied on all government vehicles. We have enclosed one flag decal with this mailing for all our vanpool groups. We ask that our volunteer drivers apply the decal to the vanpool vehicles rear window opposite the van identification number as a symbol of American Unity. Thank You!



KING COUNTY



## ***Need riders or other assistance?***

***Call Your Vanpool Services Representative.***

**Your main contact at Metro is your Vanpool Services Representative (VSR.) One of the most important things in your van is ridership. Please call your VSR if you need help with recruiting. We can help with Ridematch lists, signs and by contacting other employers in your area. We can also strategize with you about other possibilities.**

**Be sure to call your VSR about maintenance or mechanical concerns, issues with interpersonal dynamics and for any other questions you might have. The sooner we know there is an issue, the sooner we can help resolve it before it becomes a major problem.**

**If you don't know who your VSR is, just call our office at 206-625-4500 and we can tell you.**

## **Bike to the Park & Ride Lot – Lockers available**

King County Metro provides a total of 70 bicycle lockers at 11 different Metro Park & Ride lots. For a \$25 key deposit, the renter has full access to store his/her bike and any other bike gear. The lockers provide protection from the elements and vandalism. Vanpool riders can show up at the Park & Ride, stow a bike in the locker, and jump in the van, ready to go. With various options of travel increasingly interconnected, bike lockers offer a convenient way to link up your commute modes. Bike lockers are located at the following Park & Ride lots:

Auburn .....	'A' St NE & 15th St NE .....	4
Eastgate .....	SE Eastgate Wy & 136th Ave SE ....	4
Green Lake .....	I-5 & NE 65th .....	20
Issaquah .....	SR-900 & Newport Way .....	4
Kenmore .....	Bothell Way & 73rd Ave NE .....	4
Kent Transit Center .....	James St & Lincoln .....	4
Montlake Flyer Stop .....	Montlake Bridge, Seattle .....	8
North Mercer Island .....	N Mercer Wy & 80th Ave SE .....	4
Northgate Transit Center .....	NE 103rd & 1st Ave NE .....	8
Redmond .....	161st Ave NE & NE Redmond Way .....	4
South Kirkland .....	108th Ave NE & NE 38th Pl .....	4

To rent a bike locker or ask questions, contact the Bicycle Alliance at **(206) 224-9252**.



- **Where *is* that brand new Park & Ride lot?**
- **Fresh out of Participant Agreement forms?**
- **A question about your HOV lane?**
- **Need to quickly check your fare schedule?**

These are just a few examples of rideshare information and VanPool materials now available to you via **Metro Online**. Using this King County Metro web site is a great way to answer many of your vanpooling questions and get the information you need, anytime day or night. Check out the site and see what's new!

**<http://transit.metrokc.gov>**

Click on **Metro Online Home Page**, then **vanpool/carpool** and go from there!

Among the many changes, you will find all new VanPool pages including a menu of **Program Resources** linking you, as drivers, bookkeepers and riders, to useful operating and administrative information.

## Over 2,000 New Ridematch Applicants – Recruit now for more riders!

The recent Rideshare Week promotion has resulted in a higher than usual number of commuters who have applied to Ridematch to join a vanpool or find a carpool partner.

If you need more riders for your vanpool, this is a good time to visit [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com) or call the Ridematch phone number (206-625-4500) to recruit new riders. Our Internet service, [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com), ensures that participants with e-mail are automatically updated in Ridematch every 3 months to provide you the best possible matches. And remember, if you use [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com) you can easily click next to names on your match list and send them all a pre-written message asking them to join your vanpool...in just seconds.



## United We Stand



*Vanpool HOV9502, (l-r) Kenritia Coats (FAA); C.J. Jefferson (Boeing); Roselie Hunter, Jeanice DeLong, Lynn Godfrey, Tim Tengesdal (FAA); Christopher Hanks (Boeing); Wendell Fulcher (FAA); and Annette Fulce (Boeing).*

## Prorating December Fares

Many groups do not operate for a full month in December due to extended holidays and vacations. Some companies even close for a week or more during the holidays. If your group is planning to take some time off this December, you may pay a prorated fixed rate. December is the only month in which an active group may pay a prorated fixed rate.



### Calculate a prorated December fixed rate as follows:

1. Decide how many days your van will operate in December. Your group must pay for all days that the van travels to work. Record the number of December working days in the “Comments” section of your December report.
2. Find your daily fixed rate on the “Prorated Daily Fares” side of your fare schedule.
3. Multiply the daily fixed rate by the number of days your van will operate in December. This gives you the prorated December fixed rate.
4. To calculate your riders’ individual fares, divide your December prorated fixed rate by the number of paying riders in your vanpool.

### Here are some answers to some common questions that come up about prorating December fares:

*What if some of my riders don’t ride every day that the van operates in December?*

All riders must pay the full prorated amount even if they don’t ride in the van each day it operates. Remember, they’re paying to reserve their seats, just as any other month.

*Do I need to prorate the value of bus passes too?*

For December only, you do not need to calculate a prorated value for any valid bus passes. As always, if the face value of the bus pass is higher than the fare, the pass can only be valued at the same level as the fare.

If you have other questions about December fares, expenses and reporting issues specific to your group and or employer subsidy program, call your Accounting VanPool Services Representative.

# ***Wanted – Legible Bus Pass and FlexPass Copies***

Since passes are tracked individually and associated with specific riders (we actually match all pass copies to the names on your group's monthly Ridership Report), we need all copies to provide two critical pieces of information:

- legible rider's name
- legible serial number on pass

Dark photocopies and hard-to-read signatures (you may print your name, rather than sign the pass copy) can make it difficult for us to match passes with riders and properly extend pass values to your rider's vanpool fares.

Refer to the table to the right for a list of transit passes that are also good toward vanpool fares.

## **Passes towards Metro VanPool Fares**

<b>Name of Pass</b>	<b>Per Trip Value on Face of Pass</b>	<b>Monthly Cost of Pass</b>	<b>Amount Applicable to Vanpool Fare</b>
Monthly Metro VanPool/Transit	\$1.50	\$54.00	\$54.00
Monthly Metro VanPool/Transit	\$2.00	\$72.00	\$72.00
WSF Mukilteo/Clinnton PugetPass	\$.75	\$61.10	\$27.00
WSF Mukilteo/Clinnton PugetPass	\$3.00	\$142.10	\$108.00
WSF Vashon Island PugetPass	\$1.50	\$90.60	\$54.00
WSF Vashon Island PugetPass	\$2.00	\$108.60	\$72.00
WSF Central Sound PugetPass	\$1.50	\$110.70	\$54.00
WSF Fauntleroy/Southworth PugetPass	\$1.50	\$104.40	\$54.00
WSF Passenger Only PugetPass	\$1.50	\$152.70	\$54.00
3-Way: WSF Central Sound, Kitsap Transit and PugetPass	\$1.50	\$135.70	\$54.00
3-Way: WSF Passenger Only, Kitsap Transit and PugetPass	\$1.50	\$177.70	\$54.00
Reduced Fare Sticker	NA	\$5.50	\$5.50
ACCESS	NA	\$13.50	\$13.50



## **Rideshare Week 2001**

Rideshare Week, an annual event sponsored by the Washington State Rideshare Organization (WSRO), occurred October 15-

19. Prizes were donated by over 40 organizations rewarding commuters who vanpool, ride the bus, carpool, bike, walk, telecommute or work a compressed schedule. Last year almost 23,000 commuters across the State participated in this event.

Thanks to all vanpoolers – by taking thousands of vehicles off the road you are helping to relieve traffic congestion and reduce air pollution.

For more information about Rideshare Week go to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/wsro/rideshare> or call 206-625-4500.

*On our website:  
VanPool Riders Wanted Bulletin  
<http://transit.metrokc.gov>*

## **VANPOOL VOICES**

**If you have questions, comments or story ideas, send them to: Rideshare Operations, YES-TR-0700, King County Metro, 400 Yesler Way, Seattle WA 98104, call (206) 263-4445 or write [cathy.blumenthal@metrokc.gov](mailto:cathy.blumenthal@metrokc.gov).**